

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT Gail Bennett, Public Information Coordinator 75 HIGH STREET, FEDERAL BLDG., ROOM 320, MORGANTOWN WV 26505-7500 PHONE (304) 284-4860 FAX (304) 284-4893 TDD (304) 284-4836

Jobs Created and Saved Through Grant Funding to FSU

Morgantown, WV – April 13, 2004: State Director Jenny Phillips today announced that Rural Development has approved grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for Fairmont State University (FSU), formerly Fairmont State College, in Fairmont, Marion County, WV. The assistance will be made through a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG).

The grant will provide training, counseling, leadership and support to small and emerging private businesses. The project is expected to create 40 jobs and save 35 jobs.

"This project demonstrates the commitment of Rural Development to the future of our rural communities," Phillips said. "This investment will not only create jobs, but also save jobs and, in turn, improve economic opportunities in our rural areas."

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its rural housing programs, rural business programs, and rural utilities programs. Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. ##

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.